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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of

Ronald N. Drake

Application No. 10/774,819

Filed: February 09, 2004

Attorney Docket No. : DRAK-001/00US

DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER
37 CFR 1.102(c)(2)

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.102(c)(2)(i) & (ii), filed August 16, 2006, to make the above-identified application special based on the invention (a) materially enhancing the quality of the environment as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section V and (b) materially contributing to certain categories related to energy resource as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section VI.

The petitions are **DISMISSED**.

A grantable petition to make an application special under 37 CFR 1.102(c)(2)(i) and MPEP § 708.02, Section V: Environmental Quality, must state that special status is sought because the invention materially enhances the quality of the environment by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of basic life-sustaining natural elements. If the disclosure is not clear on its face that the claimed invention materially enhances the quality of the environment by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of one of the basic life-sustaining natural elements, the petition must be accompanied by a statement by the applicant, assignee, or an attorney/agent registered to practice before the Office explaining how the materiality standard is met. No fee is required.

The instant petition fails to show the invention meets the materiality standard. The instant invention is broadly directed to media separation. The purification of contaminated water does not in itself render the invention to be deemed materially enhancing the quality of the environment as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section V.

A grantable petition to make an application special under 37 CFR 1.102(c)(2)(ii) and MPEP § 708.02, Section VI: Energy, must state that special status is sought because the invention materially contributes to (A) the discovery or development of energy resources, or (B) the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources. Examples of inventions in category (A) would be developments in fossil fuels (natural gas, coal, and petroleum), hydrogen fuel technologies, nuclear energy, solar energy, etc. Category (B) would include inventions relating to the reduction of energy consumption in combustion systems, industrial equipment, household appliances, etc. enhances the quality of the environment by

contributing to the restoration or maintenance of basic life-sustaining natural elements. If the application disclosure is not clear on its face that the claimed invention materially contributes to category (A) or (B), the petition must be accompanied by a statement under 37 CFR 1.102 by the applicant, assignee, or an attorney/agent registered to practice before the Office explaining how the materiality standard is met. No fee is required.

The instant petition fails to meet the materiality standard of 37 CFR 1.102(c)(2)(ii). Although the statements in the petition pertaining to coal bed natural gas development may be generally directed to inventions relating to the development of energy sources when the instant invention is used/applied in certain applications, the materiality standard of the rule has not been met, i.e., petitioner has failed to state how the claimed invention contributes in a significant, substantial, or noticeable manner to inventions relating to the reduction of energy consumption. The materiality standard does not permit the applicant to speculate as to how a hypothetical end-user might specially apply the invention in a manner that could materially contribute to category (A) or (B) as set forth above.

This lack of meeting the materiality standards of 37 CFR 1.102(c)(2) (i) and (ii) does not permit the applicant to enjoy the benefit of advanced examination.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITION
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By hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
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By FAX: (571) 273-8300

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Ramesh Krishnamurthy at 571-272-4914, or to the undersigned at 571-272-7099.

All other inquiries concerning either the examination or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

The application is being forwarded to the Technology Center Art Unit 1724 for action in its regular turn.



David Bucci
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions